

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 21 are amended. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 14, 15 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The objected to language regarding the slit being "near" and "inducing an increase" has been removed from independent claims 1, 14 and 15. These claims now specify that there are a plurality of slits and that each slit has a "first slit portion" and a "second slit portion" being "connected to form the slit in an L-shape." These changes are fully supported, for example, by the drawings (portions 3b1 in Fig. 2) and pg. 9, lines 11-28. Independent claims 1, 14 and 15 are deemed concise and definite.

Independent claim 21 is amended to clarify the relationship between each of the substrate sections and to eliminate the objected to passages. Claim 21 is deemed concise and definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-15 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,512,510 to Maeda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of independent claims 1, 14 and 15 are amended to recite first and second pairs of strain sensors. The first and second pairs of strain sensors are "formed on another surface of the sensor substrate that is opposite to the one surface on which the stick member is provided." See, for example, Figs. 1 and 10 having a stick member 2 provided on a top surface of the substrate and strain sensors 8a-d provided on an opposite back surface of the substrate.

With this structure, the strain sensors can have high flexibility and arrangement. This allows the strain sensors to be formed near a hole through which a stick member is placed. Additionally, because the strain sensors are formed on another surface of the sensor substrate

that is opposite to the surface to which the stick member is provided, the strain sensors are hardly influence by static electricity which may run from an operator's fingers through the stick member. Therefore operational accuracy and operational sensitivity of the pointing device can be guaranteed.

In comparison, the pointing device disclosed in Maeda has strain gauges 9A-D formed on a flexible substrate 8 on the same side from which an operating portion 3 is protruded. Particularly, column 4, lines 34-36 of Maeda teach that strain gauges 9A-D are placed "in the form of a cross." Moreover, column 4, lines 59-62 teach that the "flexible substrate 8 is attached to the control member 2 mounted on the mounting member 12 by passing the operating portion 3 through the hole 8A and the flexible substrate 8." Accordingly, the feature of independent claims 1, 14 and 15 in which the strain sensors are formed on an opposite surface to the one surface on which the stick member is provided is neither disclosed nor suggested in Maeda.

Because Maeda fails to teach or disclose each and every feature of independent claims 1, 14 or 15, these claims and claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Maeda. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

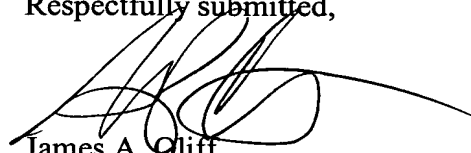
The Office Action also rejects claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) over Maeda; and claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C §103 over Maeda in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Maeda is discussed above and fails to teach features of independent claims 1, 14 and 15. Accordingly, rejected claims 5-6 and 16-20 are deemed allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Stephen P. Catlin
Registration No. 36,101

JAO:SPC/fpw

Date: November 30, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--